

Congress has consistently appropriated funds to the Commission below the President's authorization request, leaving the Commission year after year with inadequate resources to carry out its directive of investigating charges of citizens deprived of their civil rights, monitoring the enforcement of Federal civil rights laws, and serving as a national clearinghouse for information related to discrimination. With no specified funding level, the proposed legislation increases the possibility that Congress will continue its pattern of underfunding an important and critical component of this Nation's goal of eliminating discrimination in all its ugly forms.

Moreover, there is no indication that the Majority is prepared to support increased funding for the Commission as requested in the FY 1999 Budget. In fact, in its Estimates and Views on the 1999 Budget, the Majority remains noncommittal on the appropriateness of the President's request of \$11 million funding request. However, each year, the Congress continues to underfund the Commission. Last year, the Commission requested \$11 million, but was only appropriated \$8.75 million.

While increased congressional oversight over the Commission may be warranted, it is irresponsible for the Committee to place additional burdens on the Commission and yet continue to overlook the need for full funding of the Commission. It is an unnecessary and intrusive requirement to have the Commission constantly under the obligation of responding to the many requests made by the Majority, but without any provision for the funds necessary to perform its duties effectively.

The Majority has consistently focused on the problems associated with enforcement of our civil rights laws and insists that discrimination is no longer the problem it was 30 years ago. However, there is no question that the need for the Commission is greater than ever before. Discrimination continues to be a persistent problem in American society, and the role of the Civil Rights Commission plays a crucial part in fighting it. Instead of continually scrutinizing perceived defects in remedies to discrimination, we need to examine the persistent, invidious, intractable and often disguised nature of race and gender discrimination that is an undeniable fact in America today. This is what the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights was established to do, and Congress has an obligation to provide it with the necessary resources to do so.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McINNIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3117, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOBBYING DISCLOSURE TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and

pass the Senate bill (S. 758) to make certain technical corrections to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 758

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND REFERENCE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Lobbying Disclosure Technical Amendments Act of 1997".

(b) REFERENCE.—Whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF COVERED EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIAL.

Section 3(3)(F) (2 U.S.C. 1602(3)(F)) is amended by striking "7511(b)(2)" and inserting "7511(b)(2)(B)".

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF EXCEPTION TO LOBBYING CONTACT.

(a) CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 3(8)(B)(ix) (2 U.S.C. 1602(8)(B)(ix)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: ", including any communication compelled by a Federal contract grant, loan, permit, or license".

(b) DEFINITION OF "PUBLIC OFFICIAL".—Section 3(15)(F) (2 U.S.C. 1602(15)(F)) is amended by inserting ", or a group of governments acting together as an international organization" before the period.

SEC. 4. ESTIMATES BASED ON TAX REPORTING SYSTEM.

(a) SECTION 15(a).—Section 15(a) (2 U.S.C. 1610(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "A registrant" and inserting "A person, other than a lobbying firm,"; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) for all other purposes consider as lobbying contacts and lobbying activities only—

"(A) lobbying contacts with covered legislative branch officials (as defined in section 3(4)) and lobbying activities in support of such contacts; and

"(B) lobbying of Federal executive branch officials to the extent that such activities are influencing legislation as defined in section 4911(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986."

(b) SECTION 15(b).—Section 15(b) (2 U.S.C. 1610(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking "A registrant that is subject to" and inserting "A person, other than a lobbying firm, who is required to account and does account for lobbying expenditures pursuant to"; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) for all other purposes consider as lobbying contacts and lobbying activities only—

"(A) lobbying contacts with covered legislative branch officials (as defined in section 3(4)) and lobbying activities in support of such contacts; and

"(B) lobbying of Federal executive branch officials to the extent that amounts paid or costs incurred in connection with such activities are not deductible pursuant to section 162(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986."

(c) SECTION 5(c).—Section 5(c) (2 U.S.C. 1604(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 5. EXEMPTION BASED ON REGISTRATION UNDER LOBBYING ACT.

Section 3(h) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 613(h)) is amended by striking "is required to register

and does register" and inserting "has engaged in lobbying activities and has registered".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 758.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 758 the Lobbying Disclosure Technical Amendments Act of 1997 addresses several technical issues which have been raised during the initial months of implementation of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

Once the Lobbying Disclosure Act was implemented by the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate, several minor problems with the language of the statute became apparent. The offices of the Clerk and the Secretary have sought to interpret the Lobbying Disclosure Act with respect to these problems in accordance with the original intent of the law, but this technical corrections bill is necessary to clarify the language of the Act to ensure compliance with the Act's original intention.

In 1996, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and I sponsored similar legislation, H.R. 3435, which passed the House under suspension of the rules by voice vote. A dispute over one of the provisions contained in the bill precluded that bill from passing in the Senate in the last Congress. Except for the removal of this section and one other, the language contained in S. 758 is identical to H.R. 3435. The amendments made by S. 758 will strengthen what is already widely viewed as a significant and successful law.

The Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 was the first substantive reform in the laws governing lobbying disclosure since the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946. This reform was necessary due to the Supreme Court's narrow construction of the 1946 law. That construction came in the case of *United States v. Harriss*, which effectively eviscerated the 1946 act.

In the fall of 1995, the House passed this landmark legislation in identical form to the Senate-passed language. This enabled passage of the bill by the Congress and sent it directly to the President. We were thus responsible for the first meaningful lobbying disclosures legislation in over 40 years.

The bill before us today simply clarifies various technical issues arising from that landmark legislation. Section 2 of the bill clarifies the definition

of covered executive branch official under the act. Section 3 of the bill adds a clarification of the exception to a lobbying contact so that any communication compelled by a Federal contract, grant, loan, permit, or license would not be considered a lobbying contact.

Moreover, at the request of the administration, section 3 of the bill also makes plain that groups of governments acting together as international organizations, such as the World Bank, will not be required to register under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

In addition, section 4 of the bill clarifies how estimates based on the tax reporting system can and should be used in relation to reporting lobbying expenses. This section also provides that registrants engage in executive branch lobbying and who make a section 15 election under the Act must use the Tax Code uniformly for all their executive branch lobbying registration and reporting under the act.

Finally, section 5 of S. 758 clarifies the original intent of the act by providing that anyone engaged in even a de minimis level of lobbying activities on behalf of a foreign commercial entity can register under the Lobbying Disclosure Act rather than under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938.

This change reaffirms the congressional intent of requiring disclosure of foreign nongovernment representations under the Lobbying Disclosure Act and disclosure of foreign governmental representations under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

I want to thank the ranking member on the Subcommittee on the Constitution for his cooperation in moving forward this legislation which has already been passed by the Senate. I believe that this legislation is something that will simply help make a good and important law function with the maximum efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of a recent study on the lobbying disclosure reports, we now know that special interest groups are spending approximately \$100 million a month to lobby the Federal Government. Before the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, there were no requirements in place that would have made this information available.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing inherently wrong with those who petition their government. In fact, we ought to be encouraging more participation in the democratic process. But the public is entitled to have an idea of how much money is being spent by groups as they advance their particular interests.

Mr. Speaker, the Lobbying Disclosure Act was the first legislation to reform lobbying activities in any substantial way since the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946.

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Under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, individuals and organizations who

lobby the Federal Government are no longer exempt from reporting and disclosure requirements. Professional lobbyists are now required to disclose who pays them, how much to lobby the Federal Government, that is Congress and the executive branch, and on what issues. The LDA has been very successful in providing understandable requirements for lobbyists, as well as providing important information to the public about lobbying activities.

S. 758 addresses several technical issues which have been raised during the implementation of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995. The original House version, H.R. 3435, which was co-sponsored by my colleagues on the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), and I would like to at this point congratulate both of them for working in a bipartisan manner to fashion legislation that everyone could agree on.

Mr. Speaker, that bill passed the Committee on the Judiciary by a unanimous rollcall vote of 25 to 0 and then passed the House without opposition.

In the Senate, two provisions were removed from the legislation. Both sides have agreed, however, that the removal of these two provisions, which were removed at the urging of several Senators, was not enough to warrant reconsideration of the legislation.

One provision which was removed from the original version would have simplified the manner in which U.S. multinational companies disclosed information about their subsidiaries or other related entities with a significant direct interest in the outcome of the company's lobbying activities.

The second provision would have limited the recordkeeping of registrants under Section 5 of the act by eliminating the requirement that the report contain a list of lobbyists for each general issue area and, instead, required the registrant to provide a list of all employees who acted as a lobbyist for the organization in one section.

This change would have eliminated the need for organizations with a wide range of general issue areas and a large number of registered lobbyists to undertake the time-consuming task of discerning which lobbyists worked on which issues.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, this bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent; and I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 758.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed on Tuesday, March 17, 1998, in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 152, by the yeas and the nays; and House Concurrent Resolution 235, by the yeas and the nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NORTHERN IRELAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 152, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 152, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 2, answered “present” 1, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 56]
YEAS—407

Abercrombie	Boswell	Conyers
Ackerman	Boucher	Cook
Aderholt	Boyd	Cooksey
Allen	Brady	Costello
Andrews	Brown (CA)	Cox
Archer	Brown (FL)	Coyne
Bachus	Brown (OH)	Cramer
Baesler	Bryant	Crapo
Baker	Bunning	Cubin
Baldacci	Burr	Cummings
Ballenger	Burton	Cunningham
Barcia	Buyer	Danner
Barrett (NE)	Callahan	Davis (FL)
Barrett (WI)	Calvert	Davis (VA)
Bartlett	Camp	Deal
Barton	Campbell	DeFazio
Bass	Canady	DeGette
Bateman	Cannon	Delahunt
Becerra	Capps	DeLauro
Bentsen	Cardin	DeLay
Bereuter	Carson	Deutsch
Berman	Castle	Diaz-Balart
Berry	Chabot	Dickey
Bilbray	Chambliss	Dicks
Bilirakis	Chenoweth	Dingell
Bishop	Christensen	Dixon
Blagojevich	Clay	Doggett
Bliley	Clayton	Dooley
Blumenauer	Clement	Doyle
Blunt	Clyburn	Dreier
Boehlert	Coble	Duncan
Boehner	Coburn	Dunn
Bonilla	Collins	Edwards
Bonior	Combest	Ehlers
Borski	Condit	Ehrlich